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ERFJ-4478/1



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Phone: (703) 351-7676

27 November 1985

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Vice President Bush referred your letter of 8 October 1985 to the Central Intelligence Agency for reply.

You reported allegations that the CIA had conducted research on substances which could destroy the immune systems of adversaries, and suggest that the United States Government was withholding information which could be useful in curing victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (A.I.D.S.), or was possibly blocking research on the condition.

These allegations are completely untrue. Very valuable unclassified medical research has been conducted by the National Institute of Health and academic and health institutions for many years on methods for modifying the immune responses of recipients of transplanted organs, so that rejection of the transplant is less likely. As a result transplantation of vital organs has advanced to allow many persons to be successfully restored to health. However, this legitimate research has not had any role in the present A.I.D.S. epidemic, and CIA does not participate.

A.I.D.S., on the other hand, is an infectious disease, present in all sections of the globe. While its exact origin is still being studied, it seems likely that it arose by a spontaneous modification (mutation) of an animal virus. All countries are threatened by this disease which is an international health disaster.

A very massive research effort is being directed by the U.S. Government to develop vaccines to prevent this disease, and also to develop means for its effective treatment. You can be assured that all reasonable resources are being directed toward these goals with urgent priority.



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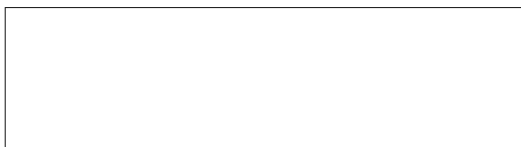


The Vice President appreciates your willingness to share with him your information and concerns on this very important national health problem. Thank you for your inquiry.

Enclosed are two Agency publications which will help you understand our mission.

Sincerely,

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Acting Director, Public Affairs

cc: Vice President

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*(per [redacted] in D/PAO's
office - 4 Dec)*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT**ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI		X		
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO	X			
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	D/OSWR		X		
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks

TO #14: Per guidance from O/VP, please have appropriate reply sent direct, with copy to O/VP and ES. Ensure r with EXDIR.

Executive Secretary

16 NOV 85

Date

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

REFERRAL

To: CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Date: November 12, 1985

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:
☐ Vice President's signature.
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.
☒ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 48 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

NO INTERIM REPLY.

Description:

Letter: _____ Telegram: _____ Other: _____
To: The Vice President
From: [Redacted]
Date: October 8, 1985
Subject: Aids

By direction of the Vice President

G. R. Abbott
G. R. ABBOTT
Staff Assistant
395-6076



1-303

October 8, 1985

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341679VP

Mr. George Bush
Vice President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20008

Executive Registry

85- 4478

Dear Mr. Vice President:

I am writing you to inform you of an issue which I believe you will hear more about, and which there are many ways to handle.

This morning very early (5:30 A.M.) on a popular Los Angeles radio station, a caller brought up the subject of AIDS. He prefaced his comments by saying that what he was going to say would disturb people, and then said that from 1965-1980, the Central Intelligence Agency had worked on substances which could destroy the immune systems of adversaries. He implied that he had been part of the research team. He referenced a substance which could destroy a battalion of Russian soldiers in a month, spreading like a common cold. His feeling was that the United States government knew more about this type of disease than they had previously let on. And he specifically said that you knew about this research.

If you as a presidential candidate could point the way toward a cure by assisting in utilizing previous classified research, it would make a great impression on the voters. On the other hand, if you were labeled as blocking the research which would consequently cause the deaths of many thousands of individuals, it would not help you. I believe that enough people heard this fellow's statement that someone will follow it up. Anyway, take this as you will. Best regards and good luck.

Sincerely,

